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# Annexation Dreams Die Quietly

## Council Drops 'Shotgun' Move

Proposed annexation of the vast Rolling Hills area to Torrance—seeming to flare into new life—was snuffed out Tuesday by action of the City Council.

On motion of City Councilman Victor E. Benstead, the final quietus was put on the proposal by a vote to drop annexation proceedings.

Mayor Albert Isen stated that the problems attending the suggested attempt to force annexation "seem insurmountable." He summed up the reasoning that led to the crystallizing of opinion.

**School Debts Passed**  
At the time the property owners, Palos Verdes Properties and The Capital Co., petitioned for annexation they did not

agree they would be willing to assume their share of school bonded indebtedness (although they subsequently indicated their willingness to do so). The absence of this commitment presented the possibility that, if forced in, the area would not be subject to sharing cost of millions of dollars of debt for bonds.

The mayor also stated that the legality of forcing annexation "is obscure." At issue was the matter of whether the petitioners for annexation could legally protest their own petition.

**Petition Withdrawn**  
Months-long discussions, initiated by the owning companies, were brought to a sudden crisis at a recent pre-council session, when Ivar Hanson, representing Palos Verdes Properties, informed Councilmen of the owners' about-face. This was in response to pressure from other Palos Verdes Peninsula litigation owners and threat of litigation, he said.

At a June 28 hearing on the proposal, a company attorney expressed the owners' objection to annexation. Councilmen deferred decision, and in the following week speculation began to fly regarding whether a "forced wedding" would be attempted.

When the hearing was reopened Tuesday night, there was no statement, the hearing was closed, and the council wrote final to the matter.

A bill of \$1890.50 is being presented to the company for expenses incurred by Torrance in a long period of negotiations.

## DEFENSE IS MEET TOPIC

An outline of civil defense plans in this area will be given at a breakfast meeting of the Chamber of Commerce next Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. in the YWCA.

The part of the National Guard and the Army in civil defense will be discussed and information previously classified will be disclosed. An 18-minute sound, color movie will show various phases of activities.

Special invitations have been issued to the City Council, Planning Commission, and members of the National Guard. King Williams will be chairman of the meeting. Advance reservations, costing \$1.25, may be made by calling the Chamber of Commerce.

## Check on Death Recalls Famous Bloody Thursday

Investigation of the death of a retired Lomita longshoreman Friday drew in memories of the famous "Bloody Thursday" demonstrations at the Los Angeles Harbor in 1937.

John Glissman, 68, of 2469 W. 248th St., Lomita, was found dead at 2:15 a.m. Friday in a communal washroom of a San Pedro hotel. His empty wallet lay by his side. There was a two-inch laceration on his head.

**Companions Questioned**  
Lt. Ralph Weyant, commander of Harbor District Detective Bureau, said two companions of Glissman in a drinking bout were questioned about the death. They are Irene Mallory, 42, a San Pedro housekeeper, and Henry Carlile, 46, janitor at the hotel.

The Mallory woman, police said, told them she and the man were drinking together in Carlile's room in celebration of the 4th of July and "Bloody Thursday." She said Glissman went to the washroom and apparently fell and died.

"Bloody Thursday" was an incident in which the shooting of a longshoreman by a policeman evoked demonstrations and protests by other longshoremen.

**Longshoreman Killed**  
William Gregg, 41, was shot and killed in front of a bar on Fifth St. March 27, 1937, by police officer William H. Redding. Redding subsequently was cleared for his actions by a coroner's jury.

Gregg's funeral was one of the largest in the harbor area with all businesses closing down and other union persons attending the services.

Gregg was shot after he had taken Redding's "sap" and attempted to attack the officer.

## AIRPORT HOSPITAL HERE OKAYED BY COMMISSION

Torrance Airport Commission, meeting last week, gave its approval to the request of Howard S. Miller, Los Angeles contractor, to lease property fronting on Pacific Coast Hwy. at the airport to erect a 49-bed hospital.

Torrance City Council this week indicated a willingness to approve the request, but tabled the subject until after being presented with a master plan now being prepared of the projected hospital.

The planned structure would include 41 general hospital rooms, eight obstetrical rooms, two room each for major and minor surgery, and a delivery room. Estimated cost is \$507,000.

A request that the lease be granted for a period of 50 years has been withdrawn.

Stipulations incorporated in the Airport Commission's recommendation for approval included the point that the "hospital be called 'Torrance Airport Hospital' or closely associated thereto."



VIRGINIA GOTTS ... Lion Nominee Leads

## Rollin R. Smith New President Of School Board

Dr. Rollin R. Smith was named president of the Torrance Board of Education at a special annual meeting held last Friday. He succeeds Mrs. Grace Wright.

Charlton A. Mewborn was elected vice president of the five-man board.

A member of the board since 1950, Dr. Smith is a veterinarian. He has been active in YMCA work. He is also a past president of the Torrance Lions Club and served as deputy district governor for 19 clubs during 1947-48. Dr. Smith, his wife, and two sons came to Torrance in 1947, and live at 1855 Torrance Blvd.

A local attorney, Mewborn was elected to the board in 1954. He came to Torrance in 1949 and is a member of the Kiwanis Club. He lives with his wife and three children at 6321 Reese Rd.

Mrs. Wright, a member of the original Board of Education here in 1947, has served as president for the past year. She has been active in both Torrance and Los Angeles County school work.

## Auto Hits Soft Shoulder, Goes Out of Control

Four persons received serious injuries in a head-on crash on Torrance Blvd. at Henrietta St. late Tuesday, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital with injuries described as major were:

Thomas F. Burke, 20, Redondo Beach.  
Richard Hansen, 23, 2738 Lofty View Drive.  
Donna Craft, 17, Redondo Beach.  
John Pope, 25, 2738 Lofty View Drive.

CHP officers said Burke and Hansen were driving and that Hansen's car apparently went out of control when it hit a soft shoulder on Torrance Blvd. The auto swerved back onto the roadway and collided head-on with the one driven by Burke.

All four were taken to Harbor General Hospital.

**Hearing Scheduled**  
Redondo Beach will hold two hearings on proposed zone changes at the Torrance boundary line, near Seaside Ranchos and Allied Gardens.

One hearing has been set for 8 tonight in the Council Chamber of Redondo. The other will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, August 4, same place.

## Community Fair to Open Wednesday



NORMA PRANGE ... NTCIA Runnerup



BETTE ROEDER ... Exchange Clubber



CAROL DUNCAN ... Moose Beauty



BETTY MORRIS ... Elks Candidate



MITZI TRIMIEW ... JayCette Entry



DARLENE FORRER ... Firemen's Choice



MAURINE BRADFORD ... Hope of Optimists



JANEENE COLOMBO ... Civitan Hopeful

## Rodeo, TV Stars Are Scheduled

Virginia Gotts maintained her lead in the race for queen of the Community Fair yesterday, as the contest entered its final week.

Local citizens were preparing to put on their shooting irons and cowboy boots for the western-style fair, which starts at 6 p.m. Wednesday and ends at 11 p.m. Sunday night. It will be held at 220th and Western Aves.

With 22170 votes, Miss Gotts held a commanding lead over Norma Prange, of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn., who had 15,815 votes. Mitzi Trimiew, JayCette candidate, was in third place with 15,220 votes.

**Candidates Follow**  
Other candidates trailed as follows:

Bette Roeder, Exchange Club, 11,680; Darlene Forrer, Firemen and Fireladies, 8857½; Carol Duncan, Moose Lodge, 8010; Maurine Bradford, Optimists, 5950; Betty Morris, Elks Lodge, 5870; and Janeene Colombo, Civitan Club, 5867½.

Among the highlights of the fair will be rodeos to be held Saturday and Sunday afternoons and the appearance of several television stars.

Gates to the fair will open at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Exhibits of local merchants will be featured, and a giant fun zone, concessions, and booths in Gold Gulch Village will be open to the public. Fifty "gold rush awards"—donated by local merchants—will be given away nightly.

**Coronation Set**  
The Fair Queen will be crowned at 9 p.m. Wednesday by Jack Owens, KABC-TV star, and the entire court will appear in pageant.

"Rosemary DeCamp Night," a tribute to the Torrance resident who is a star on "The Bob Cummings Show," will be observed on Thursday night. Her husband, Jurge John Shidler, and Mayor Albert Isen will be present. Variety entertainment also is planned.

Steve Donovan, star of the TV show, "Western Marshal," will present a stage show at 9 p.m. Friday night. A square dance exhibition to the music of a Western combo will follow.

Saturday's activities will begin with the kiddie matinee, when 1000 free ride tickets will be given to the first children in line.

**Kids Have Day**  
Children's day activities will continue at 1:15 p.m. with the appearance of TV Star "Ol' Buck Sure Shot." Bicycles will be awarded to a boy and girl in the audience.

The Rodeo Matinee will begin at 2 p.m., with contestants competing for prizes. At 9 p.m. Saturday, Johnson and Diehl will present a half-hour stage show of slapstick comedy.

A talent show, featuring Torrance residents, will begin at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, followed by a second rodeo matinee at 2 p.m.

The program will end Sunday evening at 10 p.m. with the selection of two persons for a trip to Hawaii.

## Council Passes On New Tax Law

A one cent sales tax, replacing the half-cent tax on local retail sales, has been decided on by the City Council, which passed on first reading an ordinance to that effect Tuesday night. If passed, the ordinance will take effect 30 days after second reading, which may be next Tuesday.

In upping the sales tax to a penny on a dollar Torrance falls in line with the current trend of California municipalities.

The recent state law creating a uniform four-cent sales tax goes into effect April 1, 1956. If the half-cent levy had remained in effect here, the other one-half cent would have gone to the county. Under the new state law, the four cents will be collected by the state, and the city will be refunded its share, according to the amount of the local sales tax rate.

**Use Tax Upped**  
Another tax ordinance was acted upon Tuesday. The half-cent use tax ordinance introduced last week was withdrawn, and for it was substituted a one-cent tax, approved this week on first reading. It, too, is expected to be enacted as law next Tuesday. Reason for changing the amount was to make the use tax conform to the sales tax, since it is intended as a substitute for the sales tax on purchases made in other cities for delivery here.

The increase in sales tax will add more than \$85,000 to the city treasury for the first fiscal year, just begun, according to one unofficial estimate. The following year it may be in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

The use tax will earn approximately \$75,000 for the city, it has been predicted.

**Property Tax to Drop**  
Members of the Council have expressed themselves in favor of a cut in the property tax rate after the tax rate has been declared next August. Councilman Nicholas Drale specified he will favor a three-cent reduction, saying that with the use and sales tax increased income the city will be "able to afford it."

Los Angeles City already has the one-cent sales tax, and Long Beach and Compton are expected to set the same rate.

**Strike, Default Slow Building Of New Schools**  
Although the default of a general contractor and strikes have delayed work on three new schools, all are expected to be ready by September, the School Board was told Tuesday night.

Work on Newton School, which is now about 75 per cent completed, has been temporarily halted due to the default of the Hudson Construction Co., which has gone out of business. Work will be completed by the bonding company at no additional cost to the schools, the board was told. The contract price was \$304,000.

Only a two-day delay in construction is anticipated, school officials said, and work should be done by September.

A recent strike of operating engineers slowed progress on both North High School and Steele School, officials said. Classrooms will be ready for occupancy in September, but "finishing touches" may have to be added later.

The North High School gymnasium, cafeteria, and music room probably will not be ready before Nov. 1, officials indicated.

Bids on a new warehouse across from present school administrative offices on Plaza del Amo will be let on July 15. This will house supplies, books, and furniture for the district.

## BOARD DECIDES Art Not Needed On New Building

Perhaps mindful of the controversy over the statue on the new Los Angeles Police Building, the Torrance School Board Tuesday decided that it wanted the new addition to the administrative offices to be attractive, but not arty.

Architect Roy Donley had prepared plans for the new addition to the service unit, showing a giant fresco on the front of the building and murals on inside walls. Also included was a fountain in the patio.

The educators decided that they could dispense with the art, since money is urgently needed for schools and auxiliary facilities. They questioned subject of debate, the board decided. Los Angeles has recently whether the art would be justified when the money is needed elsewhere.

The merits of the art work, if added, would probably be a had a tremendous controversy over the artistic value of a statue on the steps of its new police building.

"Simplicity has been and should continue to be our keynote," the board declared. "This includes much care that the educational program not be hampered by the economics, and doesn't give much room for art beyond that which is consistent with the functional use of the building."

The unit, estimated to cost

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## Board Names Principals

Assignment of principals to the two Torrance elementary schools which will open in September was announced this week by the Torrance School Board.

Webster J. Smith, now vice principal at Walteria School, will become principal at Newton School, while Roland K. Petrat, present principal of El Nido School, will head Carl Steele School.

Petrat's duties at El Nido will be taken over by Lester Foster, principal at Perry School for the past five years. Foster will be replaced by John Webster Strom, who has been vice principal at North Torrance Elementary School.